

WINTER, 1980-81

ILLINOIS NUMISMATIC ASS'N COIN DIGEST



Illinois Numismatic Ass'n
1306 Hollycrest Dr.
Champaign, Ill. 61820

BULK RATE

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"THE IMPOSSIBLE COLLECTION"

By SAMUEL W. JOHNSON, JR.

The majority of National Currency experts and collectors will "shake their heads" in disbelief after reading this article. The impossible collection is a collection of National Currency from the First National Bank of Coulterville, Illinois. This small southern Illinois town is situated 52 miles southeast of St. Louis, Missouri, and has a current population of 1,200.



Large size Coulterville National Currency, with only \$60 (sixty) escaping government redemption and destruction, is one of the rarest Large Size Nationals in the entire United States. The \$60 figure is the lowest total escaping destruction for any bank's Large Size National Currency in the State of Illinois. As far as is known, the \$60 figure is the lowest total escaping destruction of any bank's Large Size National Currency in the entire United States. (All bank's outstanding figures are much too high, because notes destroyed by other means are not included. The government wouldn't have known that, say, two large size Coulterville \$5.00 notes burned up when "Mrs. Jones' house burned down!")

The Impossible Collection contains four \$5.00 notes, or 33 1/3 % of the bank's outstanding figure of \$60. I know of no other National Currency collection in the United States that contains one-third of the large size notes that escaped destruction (the first impossibility).

The serial notes of the four Large Size notes in the Impossible Collection are 1696, 1697, 1698 and 2342. Can you imagine three consecutive serial numbers when a maximum of twelve \$5.00 notes is all that could have escaped destruction? To further complicate the matter, \$10.00 and \$20.00 notes were also issued to the First National Bank of Coulterville, but none are known to exist. Furthermore, another collector also owns a Large Coulterville \$5.00 (Serial No. 1865). Having three consecutive serial numbers, considering the above, is "the second impossibility."

The Impossible Collection also includes a Small Size 1929 Type I \$5.00 note, and \$10.00 and \$20.00 Type II notes. Although the small size \$5.00 is not considered scarce, both Type II notes are presently considered very rare. There were only 525 Type II \$10.00 notes and 204 \$20.00 originally issued, and Illinois' finest National Currency collectors and dealers know of no other surviving Type II notes from Coulterville. That this collection contains two Type II notes that are unknown to Illinois' "finest" is the third impossibility. That the collection exists and belongs to one owner is the fourth impossibility.

The beginning of the collection started very quietly, but over a period of nearly four years it grew to thunderclap proportions. The first note acquired was the Small Size \$5.00 (hardly a stunning start). A year or more later, Large Size No. 1696 was acquired. "Armed" with No. 1696, No. 1698 and No. 2342 "fell like dominoes" in the next six months. Within another six months, both Type II notes were acquired from the same individual! (Considering the rarity of the Type II notes, acquiring them from the same individual is the fifth impossibility!)



Wow! Boom! I had an overwhelmingly unique Coulterville National Currency collection! But, unknown to me, the sixth impossibility was yet to come. In the fall of 1979 a boyhood friend came to my house and informed me that he had recently acquired a Large Size Coulterville \$5.00! He wanted to know if I was interest in purchasing the note (Ha) as he had heard that I collected "Coulterville money." (Did I ever!) Upon inspection of the note, the serial number was 1697 — right between my 1696 and 1698! The old card players saying of "catching a card in the guts" or middle certainly proved true in this instance. (If a poker player has a 4-5-7-8 in his hand, catching the "6" is "getting one in the guts" or middle.) I just stared at the 1697, shook my head, and thought of the awesome odds against this happening. Before all of you say or think, "This guy could fall into an outhouse and come out smelling like a rose," read on.

Admittedly, living only six miles from Coulterville was a tremendous help. Although the small size \$5.00 and large No. 1696 and 1697 were "handed to me on a silver platter," the other four notes were acquired by research and detective work in Coulterville, and an adver-

No. 1696 was purchased from a major currency dealer. Using this note's price as a guide, I actually paid 330% of 1696's price for the other three large size notes. In my opinion, this was the only honorable way to conduct the transaction. All three small size notes were acquired from individuals at their asking price.

Although my collection is stored in a bank safe deposit box the huge majority of the time, I have had it at home the past few days. It really "turns me on" to look at my collection and several times a year I simply must. My future dream is to acquire a Type I small size \$10.00 and \$20.00, and a Type II \$5.00. Then I would have \$5.00 - \$10.00 - \$20.00 of Type II and Type I. Realistically, I believe it is virtually impossible to accomplish this. Or is it??

I would welcome letters from National Currency collectors and individuals who own or know of surviving Coulterville National Currency.

To further substantiate the rarity of the small size \$10.00 and \$20.00 Type II notes — BOTH were listed in the November-December 1979 issue of "Paper Money" as the first of their denomination known to exist from the First National Bank of Coulterville! Surprisingly, I have since acquired another Type II \$10.00 in beautiful condition.

Amounts, type, serial numbers and denominations of Large Size National Currency issued by the government to the First National Bank of Coulterville, Illinois. Charter No. 12000.

Series 1902 3rd charter Plain Back with Blue Seal —	
5-5-5-5 Plate - Serial No. 1-2419	\$48,380 Total
10-10-10-20 Plate - Serial No. 1-1749	\$87,450 Total
Grand Total	\$135,830

Amounts, types, serial numbers, and denominations of small size National Currency issued to the First National Bank of Coulterville, Ill.

Small Size Series 1929	
\$5.00 Type I - Serial No. 1-1106	\$33,180 Total
\$10.00 Type I - Serial 1-494	\$29,640 Total
\$20.00 Type I - Serial No. 1-132	\$61,080 Total
\$5.00 Type II - Serial No. 1-1,110	\$ 5,550 Total
\$10.00 Type II - Serial No. 1-525	\$ 5,250 Total
\$20.00 Type II - Serial No. 1-204	\$ 4,808 Total
Grand Total	\$93,780

The total of small size survivors is unknown, but probably is no more than a few hundred dollars. The difference between Type I and Type II notes is that Type II notes have the bank's charter number (12000) in four places on the note, while Type I notes have the charter number (12000) in only two positions.

About the Author

Sam Johnson is a member of ANA, C.S.N.S. No. 3062, SPMC and ILLNA No. 1366, where he serves as a member of the board of governors. Sam is an avid collector of paper money and, as you can plainly deduce from the article, a student of the subject as well. If you would like to correspond with Sam, this is his address: Samuel W. Johnson, Jr., 1113 North Market, Sparta, Illinois 62286.

ROCKFORD COIN SHOW

The Rockford Area Coin Club will host their Semi-Annual Coin Show on Sunday, March 15, 1981, at the Mark II Inn, Route 20, five miles west of I-90, 5011 East State Street.

Ralph Winqvist says they will have about 40 dealers. For further information, contact: Ralph C. Winqvist, Jr., 1004 C. Street, Rockford, Illinois 61107.

ABOUT DUES

A new year brings dues notices to my house; maybe to yours too. Dues have NOT been increased — still \$3.00 a year for old members; \$4.00 for the first year for new members. Please get your dues in as soon as possible.

I hope you all have some left over after paying the tax man. We have a lot of membership cards, so don't be afraid to sign up a new ILLNA member.

AN EARLY REMINDER

The ILLNA Convention will be in Decatur, Illinois, this year. The dates are September 11-12-13, 1981, at the Holiday Inn. Put a note on your calendar now, and plan that display you have been putting off.

WANTED TO BUY — BOOKS

WANTED — Books on Banking Histories for my personal library. Did a bank in your area publish a bank history? If so, I would like to buy it. **ALSO NEEDED** — State Banking Histories from the entire United States. Example: "Early Banking in Indiana", by Fort Wayne Public Library.

WANTED — Bank Notes of the Grand Prairie Bank of Urbana, Illinois, and any related matter of that bank.

If you were to describe and price in your first letter, it would be convenient for both of us. Thank you.

LeRoy J. Kaczor

1306 Hollycrest Drive — Champaign, Illinois 61820

Permanent Coin Club Show Dates

Show Chairman: Edward Voss

Member Clubs: Please check this listing before scheduling your next show! Send listings to Show Chairman EARLY!

February — 2nd Sunday: Rantoul Coin Club, Rantoul.

February — 4th Sunday: Gibson City Coin Club, Gibson City.

March — 1st Sunday: Wat-Cha-Kee Coin Club, Watseka.

March — 3rd Sunday: Freeport Coin Club, Freeport.

March — 3rd Sunday: Kankakee Coin Club, Kankakee.

October — 3rd Sunday: Kankakee Coin Club, Kankakee.

October — 3rd Sunday: McHenry County Coin Club,
Crystal Lake.

October — 4th Sunday: Hoopeston Coin Club, Hoopeston.

November—1st Sunday: Champaign-Urbana Coin Club,
Urbana.

November—1st Sunday: Dixon Coin Club, Dixon.

November—1st Sunday: Centralia Coin Club, Centralia.

November—2nd Sunday: Aurora Coin Club, Aurora

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EDITOR'S PAGE

This issue of the Digest is in booklet form to accommodate the fine article on National Bank Notes by Sam Johnson, a member of the Board of Governors of the Association. Because of the high costs, we will use booklets and newsletters to keep in touch with the membership.

The Board of Governors, at the State Show in Peoria last September, voted to discontinue the listing of private and commercial coin shows. It was getting to the point where we were paying for pages of free advertising with no return support. We will continue to print dates of coin club sponsored shows and meeting dates. Some of these dates are listed in this issue.

This year there will be another election of ILLNA officers. Not just Board Members, but President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Board Members. Now would be a good time to start thinking about this election. We are in reasonably good shape financially, so you will not be trying to rescue a drowning Association. If you or someone you know would be willing to put forth a little effort, it would be much welcomed.

ABOUT CONVENTIONS

Last year at Peoria, we had a fine gathering of coin collectors from all over Illinois and neighboring states. With over one hundred dealers present, there was something for everyone.

My one disappointment was the small number of people who attended the two numismatic lectures. These programs last less than one hour and surely what is on the bourse floor is not that critical to life that a few minutes could not be spent learning more about our mutual hobby.

A convention is a very good place to expand your knowledge of numismatics. With this admonition, may I suggest to you the following:

CENTRAL STATES at Indianapolis	April 2-5, 1981
INDIANA STATE at Indianapolis	May 12-14, 1981
MEMPHIS PAPER MONEY at Memphis	June 18-21, 1981
ANA at New Orleans	July 27 - August 2, 1981
ILLNA at Decatur	September 11-13, 1981

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

IN THE

ILLINOIS NUMISMATIC ASS'N

I hereby make application for membership in the Ill. N. A. subject to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

Date.....

Mr.

Mrs.

Miss

.....
Name (Please Print)

Address

.....
City

.....
State

.....
Zip Code

.....
Date and Birth Year

.....
Occupation

.....
Numismatic Specialty

.....
Signature of Applicant

.....
List Local Coin Club You Are Member of

.....
Signature of Proposer

Check One Below:

CLUB APPLICATION ()

INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION ()

DUES RENEWAL ()

\$4.00 for NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and One Year DUES

\$3.00 for CURRENT DUES of old REGULAR MEMBER

Complete form, with proper amount of Money (cash or check), give to any ILL. N. A. Officer or Mail to the Secretary's Address.

SIGN UP A COLLECTOR FRIEND

SIGN UP YOUR CLUB INTO ILL. N. A.

— ILL. N. A. Needs You, You Need ILL. N. A. —

ILL. N. A. HONOR ROLL

CLUB-FIFTY — for those coin clubs or individuals who so believe in the future of the Illinois Numismatic Association and the advancement that it is endeavoring to bring to collectors of the Illinois area, that they have donated \$50.00 to aid in this work.

- 1967—PEORIA DISTRICT COIN CLUB, PEORIA, ILLINOIS
- 1968—PEORIA DISTRICT COIN CLUB, PEORIA, ILLINOIS
- 1970—TRI-CITIES COIN CLUB, MOLINE, ILLINOIS
- 1971—CENTRAL ILLINOIS NUMISMATIC ASSN., SPRINGFIELD, ILL.
- 1972—JACK D. HUGGINS, BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS
- 1973—JACK D. HUGGINS, BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS
- 1973—WILL COUNTY COIN CLUB, JOLIET, ILLINOIS
- 1974—SOY CITY COIN CLUB, DECATUR, ILLINOIS

CLUB-ONE HUNDRED—for those coin clubs who have contributed to ILL. N. A., through their effort and hard work in HOSTING the ILLINOIS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION STATE CONVENTION, since the inception of ILL. N. A. in 1959.

- 1960—ROCKFORD AREA COIN CLUB ROCKFORD
- 1961—PEORIA DISTRICT COIN CLUB PEORIA
- 1962—TRI-CITIES COIN CLUB MOLINE
- 1963—LAND OF LINCOLN COIN CLUB, C.I.N.A. SPRINGFIELD
- 1964—MATTOON COIN CLUB MATTOON
- 1966—CENTRALIA COIN CLUB CENTRALIA
- 1967—STARVED ROCK COIN CLUB LA SALLE
- 1968—PEORIA DISTRICT COIN CLUB PEORIA
- 1969—CENTRALIA COIN CLUB CENTRALIA
- 1970—TRI-CITIES COIN CLUB MOLINE
- 1971—CENTRAL ILLINOIS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION..SPRINGFIELD
- 1972—SOY CITY COIN CLUB DECATUR
- 1973—WILL COUNTY COIN CLUB JOLIET
- 1974—SOY CITY COIN CLUB DECATUR
- 1975—CENTRAL ILLINOIS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION..SPRINGFIELD
- 1976—SOY CITY COIN CLUB DECATUR
- 1977—NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COIN CLUB ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
- 1978—WILLIAM SALOW CHILLICOTHE
- 1979—WILLIAM SALOW CHILLICOTHE

MEMBERSHIP HONOR ROLL — for those non-officers who have signed the most new members into ILL. N. A. for each year.

- 1967—MARSHALL RAMAY METROPOLIS
- 1968—CLAYTON J. HAGEMANN PLANO
- 1969—JOHN C. HADLEY CHAMPAIGN
- 1970—PAUL J. SURJAN JOLIET
- 1971—JACK D. HUGGINS BELLEVILLE
- 1972—WILLIAM D. WILES ELLIOT
- 1973—DALE E. RICHESON TUSCOLA
- 1974—WILLIAM L. SALOW KANKAKEE
- 1975—RICHARD HARTZOG ROCKFORD
- 1976—RICHARD HARTZOG ROCKFORD
- 1977—RICHARD HARTZOG ROCKFORD
- 1978—FRANK ST. LOUIS BRADLEY
- 1978—RICHARD HARTZOG ROCKFORD

